

READERS COMMENT MRS. BRADLEY MARTIN.

Many Letters from Journal's Patrons Approve the Already Famous Bal Masque and Assail Its Critics.

FEW DEFENDERS OF REV. WILLIAM S. RAINSFORD.

How the Expenditures of the Wealthy Aid the Poor to Tide Over a Season of Hardship Due to Lack of Employment and Cold Weather.

Will Mrs. BRADLEY MARTIN'S bal-masque on February 10 at the Waldorf be a blessing or the reverse? Rev. WILLIAM S. RAINSFORD aroused discussion on this question by denouncing the ball as wanton extravagance. Readers of the JOURNAL in large numbers attack his position; others there are who defend it. A selection from the vast bundles of letters received is printed below.

Editor New York Journal:

Food
Rather than
Avarice.

It seems to me that Dr. Rainsford and followers of his ideas are expressing themselves without looking at the good results accruing from the expenditure of such vast sums of money as will be required for Mr. and Mrs. Bradley-Martin's bal masque. I am certain such a large sum of money thrown into circulation must do much good, and it certainly proves it when the costumes are compelled to shut down on orders. This ostentatious display may be a little food for Anarchistic talk, especially when being incited by the clergy, but the great mass of the intelligent working class of which I am one, look at such lavish expenditures as food for many, rather than with avarice. I have always sided with the rich man. What would we do without him? He is the one who has to spend his money, other than lawfully.

W. H. HOLMES.

Yonkers, N. Y., Jan. 28.

Editor New York Journal:

A Means
to
Prosperity.

The walking delegate, street corner statesman and a "round reformer" howl and rant against the plutocrat and wall because money is not in circulation. Mrs. Bradley-Martin's "display," as it is termed by these guardians of the dear people, is hoisted and geared at.

Let the lady blow herself according to her own sweet will. The more blowouts and displays she and her kind make the less money she will have and more other people will have. Some one will get it. The sensible poverty-stricken do not object; it is only the ignorant, the class which cannot recognize that nature makes everything in pairs opposites or extremes, of prosperity, but he is a long way ahead of the show, and I am glad to see Mrs. Bradley-Martin set a portion of her circulating medium a rolling among the dear people where they can get their fins on it.

JOHN DE TIBRE.

No. 123 West Thirty-third street, Jan. 28.

Editor New York Journal:

Who Are
the
Fault-Finders?

When the hard times first came upon us many demands were made on the officials who had charge of our town affairs, urging them to begin at once any public improvements that were needed, and that by so doing work would be given to many who were in need of it. It was done, and many reaped the benefit.

In the present times Mrs. Bradley-Martin, a society leader of great wealth, saw fit to give a ball on such a grand scale that thousands of dollars would be expended, and thus put into circulation money that otherwise would have been tied up. Now, will not many reap the benefit of this? Some people say in reply: "Her orders will be given only to the wealthy ones in trade. Granting this to be the case, will they not in turn employ many people to carry on the work after the orders are given? They surely could not do all the work themselves, for the producers, people, and they only are the producers. Now, Mrs. Bradley-Martin, on a scale in keeping with her wealth and position, and so with the rest of us, so far as we can, each trying to outdo the other as far as our means will allow. So far as I have heard the great fault-finders are the ones who, be the times good or bad, never have more than is needed to gratify their own pleasures."

E. E. CROLLY.

Wallingford, Conn., Jan. 28.

Editor New York Journal:

Not Affront
to the
Poor.

With commendable public spirit, your journal has offered an opportunity to the thinking public to express opinions bearing upon the coming Bradley-Martin ball. The expenditure of many thousands of dollars upon an elaborate social function is, at this time, neither "inopportune" nor by any sensible process of reasoning an "affront and mockery" to the poor; for the sum spent is distributed between the decorator, the musical director and the caterer, and in turn reaches the pockets of the artist, clerk and laborer, through the endless processes of trade and service, while bringing all classes of the social body into direct contact for the common good.

It is worthy of note that the vast majority of the thinking public hold the view, in such a controversy, while it is the disaffected who are noisy in their denunciation of those who spend their incomes in a

manner effectively distributive. Instead of investing in heavy securities, the proceeds of which are slow in reaching the masses, the former surely contribute to the general relief.

Finally, such an expenditure is not an "extreme extravagance," while within the means of the spender; and it is clearly the duty of the clergy to endeavor to remove rather than augment the strain which exists between the classes, by individual persecution, instead of contributing to, if not originating notoriety, which it is not reasonable to assume the Bradley-Martins would court with an unbidden public.

PAUL R. LEWIS.

Englewood, N. J., Jan. 28.

Editor New York Journal:

Let
the Wealthy
Squander.

I don't see what objections there can be in the Bradley-Martins giving a ball and spending as much money as they want. Why should we, as they have managed to accumulate so much that they can afford to squander it that way.

But I think it is a wrong system that allows any one person to accumulate as much money as some of our rich people have. As I look at it, that money represents a tax on the producers, of the country, and the producers have got a vote, and if they have not enough to vote, let for their own benefit then they have got no kick coming if the rich tax them without limit.

C. H. S.

Editor New York Journal:

May Her
Tribe
Increase.

There has been an inexcusable amount of rot said and printed about the Bradley-Martin ball. The croakers put on their hypocritical faces and decant in sanctimonious tones about such great sums of money—some say half a million—being expended on a ball in these hard times. What if a million dollars were expended by Mrs. Bradley-Martin and her guests? Wouldn't it be a godsend to have such a sum of money expended in New York right now in this cruel winter? Every dollar is paid out either for personal service and labor rendered at the time the affair takes place, or for products of labor stored up in shops and warehouses waiting for customers to buy it. We suffer not so much from overproduction as we do from underconsumption of labor's product. Supposing there were in New York twenty other women of the same liberality and enterprise as Mrs. Bradley-Martin, and that during the winter a sum all the way from five to ten million dollars were expended on grand theatricals, carnivals, masquerades, or what you please that is decent and respectable, would not the working people of New York and a hundred other cities be much better off on account of so much money being put in circulation? But these croakers have not got the best of consciences themselves.

Wealth is accumulated by brains and self-denial, and wealth so gotten is not afraid. Some people get wealth in other ways and do not like to have it known, but least of all they are the most useless members of society and accomplish no good in this world. This scribbler has to work for a living, and can appreciate people who have the ability to accumulate money and put it in circulation again, hence my reply to Mrs. Bradley-Martin, she is an up-to-date, good woman; may her tribe increase!

L. P. NELSON.

No. 125 East Twenty-ninth street, Jan. 28.

Editor New York Journal:

Views from
Two
Hilltops.

As you have opened your columns for a popular discussion of the Bradley-Martin bal masque, permit me to get a gentle rap at those near-sighted individuals who give their unequalled approval to such affairs because hundreds of people are employed to enter to the extravagant tastes of the fashionable rich. All students of sociology understand that while this extravagance employs hundreds of workers in certain lines, it is the thousands of producers and employees of large corporations who are creating and supplying the wealth this wantonly wastes, and who are not receiving just compensation for the work they perform. Consequently it is only a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. But I am somewhat of an optimist myself, and I think the bal masque is a good thing, because at this time, when the press is calling the attention of the public to the abject poverty at the base of society—"those who run may read," and compare it with the "barbaric splendor at the apex." So that the noble army of six million voters who protest against the existing conditions at the polls in 1898 will be increased to such an extent in 1900 that the vendict of the American people shall be for liberty and equality. Meanwhile let all those who believe that trusts and syndicates are a good thing keep one eye on the ostentatious display of the folks on Murray Hill and one eye on the poverty and sufferings of their brothers on Cherry

HILL.
No. 521 West One Hundred and Fifty-eighth street.

Editor New York Journal:

The Bradley-Martin ball is all right. The amount of money spent for this affair will flow in numerous channels and reach an endless chain of trades. To name them all would take too much space of your great paper.

What do you want the millionaires to do with their money? Do you wish them to buy Government bonds to speculate with, or build up greedy trusts and corporations that can vitiate the electoral suffrage at any Presidential campaign, or bribe the law-makers of this country? The concealed but real object of some millionaires seems to be to buy their way out of the Christian resignation, instead of trying to irritate the poor against the rich? If the Scriptures are true, the destitute ought to be contented by the fact that the rich will have a hard time in trying to get into heaven.

These so-called pastors are worse than Anarchists. Do you ever hear them talk against the extravagant and lavish displays that take place in their churches at certain weddings and funerals? Never. Give us more Bradley-Martin balls.

GEORGE LE MAI.

No. 217 East Seventy-third street.

Editor New York Journal:

Permit me to take exception to the ideas promulgated in Mr. Wellington Baker's letter. Mr. Baker claims that ignorance and malice have been displayed in the controversy in re the Martin-Bradley ball, and that when work is given the unemployed and starving, ally objections are made which only aggravate the relations between rich and poor.

The poor do not object to work if they have it; neither do they object to the rich riding in any conveyance their purse is capable of providing, but they protest most emphatically against money being squandered at times of horror that we are now witnessing, wherein the poor are unthought of, and means unprovided for carrying the crumbs that fall from the banquet tables of the wealthy to the hungry mouths of the starving poor.

I claim the Bradley-Martin ball will not make one man, woman or child of the working classes one dollar, dime or cent better off than if this "affair" was but a dream, and no intention of holding it made public. The Waldorf Hotel would exist if this ball had never been thought of. The lessee of the Waldorf is a wealthy man. The thousands of dollars paid for required accommodation don't enter into the possession of the poor—they go into the pocket of the lessee. Will the thousands of profit he derives prompt him to say to his employees on pay day, "I have made a profit of several thousand dollars on Mrs. Bradley-Martin's caper, in consequence I feel justified in presenting each of you, in addition to your wages, five dollars?" No fear or likelihood of that.

It may be said, "But look at the extra help in the shape of waiters that must be engaged." As a hotel proprietor and vice-president of the Hotel Association of this State, I know I am right in stating that the more extra waiters required for such a ball as this ball promises to be, all the better for the hotel provided. There are hundreds of waiters in New York who would gladly pay ten dollars—each of them for the privilege of being engaged without wages for that one night, the poor fellows depending upon gratuities to recoup them for their speculative outlay. Again:

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SING SING'S FIRST CLASS IN DRAWING.

Convicts Escape the Monotony of Idleness by Studying Art.

TEACHER IS AN EXPERT.

Lessons by a Man Known to Architects and Draughtsmen All Over the State.

PRACTICE IN THEIR CELLS.

Warden Sage Expects to Find Many Prisoners Who Will Become Skilled Draughtsmen Before They Leave the Prison.

Proficiency in free hand and mechanical drawing may now be acquired free of charge in this State.

Applicants for such instruction must not be over particular, however, as the art school in question is that managed under the auspices of the State of New York by Warden Sage, at Sing Sing. It held its first session yesterday morning.

At 10 o'clock fifty of the 671 convicts for whom there is no regular employment since the penitentiary shops were closed by order of the Legislature, assembled in the room formerly used for dressing tambo and other frolics from which scrubbing brushes are made.

Teacher a Well-Known Expert.

The fifty took off their coats and hung them in a row against the wall. Then each took his place behind one of the painted benches. A tall man, in convict's garb, went to the upper end of the room, where stood a blackboard, and drew upon it with practised strokes two perpendicular lines and two horizontal lines, forming right angles at their bases. The keeper in charge of the fifty mounted his raised box at one side of the room. The man at the blackboard was the instructor. He is an accomplished draughtsman, whose work is known to architects and designers all over the State.

It was not necessary for him to say anything. The fifty took up their pencils and began to draw perpendicular lines on the paper fastened to their drawing boards.

A few of the fifty held their pencils easily. Their lines were parallel and fairly straight. Others gripped their pencils as though they were pliers with which the stubborn wire is drawn through the backs of scrubbing brushes in weaving the fibre into them. The instructor began to move in front of the benches, making comments in a low voice.

Drew Pictures Instead of Lines.

In front of one industrious pupil the instructor paused, with an expression of deep disgust on his features. The ambitious pupil had been ornamenting his perpendicular lines with all sorts of curves and flourishes, and was now trying his hand at a portrait of a horse. Here and there a pupil accompanied each movement of his pencil with a similar movement of his tongue.

The lesson was to be of two hours' duration. Nearly an hour had expired before the instructor had reached the pupils at the back rows of benches with his comments. Presently it was noticed that some drawing was wrong, and two of the pupils were led away to the Warden's office.

Too Blind to Draw.

"What is the trouble?" asked the Warden kindly of the sinner of the two. "Don't you enjoy your drawing lesson?"

"I would very much, but my eyesight is so poor that I can hardly tell one line from another. It is useless for me to try. Let some one have my place who will profit by the instruction."

"And what is your trouble?" demanded the Warden of the other man.

"It's a waste of time to try and make anything out of me, sir," said the man respectfully. "I'm too stupid. I can't fix my mind on it. I'm simply keeping some one else out of a good thing."

The Warden excused these two convicts from further attendance with the drawing class.

It was impossible yesterday to determine what proportion of those first chosen for the experiment would take sufficient interest in the lesson to practice it in their cells.

Honoring General Slocum.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The House Committee on the Library to-day recommended favorably the bill appropriating \$50,000 for the erection of an equestrian statue in this city to Major-General Henry W. Slocum.

William H. Dyer has selected a costume of black, blue and gray. Julian Story has chosen a Louis XIII. costume.

Thomas F. Whiting will be gorgeously costumed in white satin, silver and pearls as Charles IX.

Mrs. Whitney Warren's costume of the Louis XV. epoch will be very splendid. Her ground work is to be of cherry velvet and silk.

HIS THIRD VICTIM DIES.

Miss Gertrude Palmer's Death Hastened by News of Her Brother's Arrest.

Lynching Talked Of.

Gertrude Palmer, who was shot on the evening of January 18 by her brother, Arthur Palmer, at the Palmer home in the little village of Mamaroneck, died at 2 o'clock Friday morning. She passed away with the words, "Arthur, poor Arthur! He didn't mean to kill me; on her lips, the third victim of Palmer's insane frenzy.

Two days ago she was on a fair road to recovery, but gossiping neighbors told her of the capture of Arthur in St. Louis and how he had tried to kill himself with a piece of a weather strip, and her condition immediately became serious. The news of the fugitive's arrest was a great shock to her. She brooded over the matter and bemoaned the fate of Arthur until the time she expired.

"I had hoped he was dead," she wailed at frequent intervals during Thursday, and all efforts to quiet her were unavailing.

All day yesterday a little knot of men gathered in the Mamaroneck saloons and made loud threats of lynching the murderer. On account of the plans said to have been perfected by the mob, there is little doubt in the mind of the villagers that an attempt will be made by them to get possession of Palmer when he is brought to Westchester County and wreak vengeance on him.

The Sheriff and his deputy, who are expected to return from St. Louis on Saturday night, have been notified to guard their prisoner closely as they near Mamaroneck. The funeral of Miss Gertrude will take place at the Free Methodist Church at 2:30 p. m. Monday.

PERRY BELMONT MAY NOT ATTEND.

Rumor That He Deplores the Bradley-Martin Bal Masque.

HE DECLINES TO TALK.

The Hostess Has Not Yet Decided What Character She Will Assume.

IS CONSIDERING SEVERAL

A Great Demand Has Arisen in the City for Silken Hosiery of Shades Which Merchants Find It Difficult to Supply.

It was reported yesterday that former Congressman Perry Belmont would not attend the Bradley-Martin ball, although he has received an invitation.

According to the story in circulation, Mr. Belmont has determined to remain away from this fashionable function on the ground that a big display of wealth at this time is not desirable from a political point of view.

Mr. Belmont was asked last night if it was true that he had declined an invitation from Mrs. Martin.

"That is a private matter," he replied. "Will you deny or confirm the report that is current?"

"I will not talk about it at all. It is a private matter, and I will not say anything more about it."